

Urgent Action Now or Disastrous Consequences

by Jere Locke

“Fighting climate change is about survival and existence. Are we going to take action over the next few years to ensure our generation has a liveable future, or are we going to continue to kick the can down the road and resign ourselves to live a life filled with chaos, violence, and uncertainty?” **Varshini Prakash**
--Director & co-founder of *Sunrise*, a movement of young people leading the way on climate.



their farming habits to sequester emissions. We believe that under this plan our electricity production will be carbon free by 2030.

Huge Problems

President Biden’s plan only allocates \$2T while more progressive *GND* plans allocate eight times as much. Currently, he doesn’t seem to be listening carefully to the needs of communities of color as outlined in the *GND* and *THRIVE* Agenda. Biden repeatedly doesn’t seem to support any real limits on fracking on private land and his plan will go thru a Senate committee chaired by Sen. Manchin who, coming from West Virginia’s coal country, will do all he can to protect coal interests. **So where will the emission cuts come from in the limited time we have?**

In the past President Biden and John Kerry have supported market mechanisms. In the first big climate bill in 2009, Dr Hansen, Bill McKibben, Naomi Klein, *Greenpeace*, *Friends of the Earth* and others all came out against it because it was built around market mechanisms. They are supported by corporations because instead of making emission cuts in the US they can just promise to make them elsewhere in the world. They have never worked partly because they are always full of corruption and end up giving a false sense of progress.

Activists, Scientists & Journalists Are Skeptical

We need to support what is good in Biden’s bill and educate him to make the needed changes so as to protect the future of our children, grandchildren and ourselves. Many sectors of the climate community are deeply skeptical of Biden’s climate plan due to his past. Biden and Kerry, his climate ambassador, have both touted the *Paris Accord* as their biggest climate achievement. *Paris* was a desperate effort to cobble together an agreement after decades of failure to make substantial progress..

Dr. James Hansen, the most distinguished climate scientists in the world, Director of *NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies* for over 30 years and leader of the two most important research efforts on climate, immediately after the signing of the *Paris Accord*, **called the *Paris Accord* “BS and a fraud”.**

Recently on the 5th anniversary of the *Paris Accord*, Antonio Guerra the *UN Secretary General*, Greta Thunberg and others have said we are moving in the wrong direction partly because countries are renegeing on their already weak *Paris* commitments.

How You Can Help

Biden has said he wants a vote on his plan during his first 100 days of office, which would be by the end of April. For the past two years we have been busy organizing coalitions and educating communities and representatives so they will push President Biden to strengthen his climate plan. As the vote comes closer, there will be a need for phone banks and letter writing campaigns all over the state to support some congress people while encouraging others to do more. Contact us at jere Locke@yahoo.com or 512-203-8858 to explore how you can help. Find more information at www.texasdroughtproject.org.

BIO: Jere Locke, former director of the Texas Fair Trade Coalition, is co-founder & organizer with the Texas Drought Project.

There is HOPE on climate change if we follow the advice of our scientists and do what is necessary much like what we have now done on the virus. The path forward to a safe future will stimulate our economy and create millions of needed jobs. However, our window to a livable future is closing. The time for decisive action is right now. The time for all of us to do something is also now.

For the past several years the *Texas Drought Project* has been organizing a coalition in twelve Texas Congressional districts to get support for the *Green New Deal* and a national climate bill equal to the existential crisis of climate change. In San Antonio both Rep. Castro and Rep. Doggett have endorsed either the *Green New Deal (GND)* or the *THRIVE* Agenda that is very similar to the *GND*. Rep. Cuellar has endorsed neither.

Years To Act?

In the past few years various organizations and leading scientists have issued their research conclusions on how long we have to make substantial cuts globally or face the worst of climate change. Three years ago, the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)* said we had 12 years. However, when their excellent scientists write a statement every 6 or 7 years it is edited line by line by politicians from the 195 member countries turning it into more of a compromise political statement than a scientific statement. From our reading of the research we cannot make a case for more than 4 years before we will just be witnesses to what will happen.

Consequences Of Inadequate Action

By the worst of climate change, scientists aren’t referring to our present wildfires, sea level rise and hurricanes. Instead, they are referring to ecological collapse, which would lead to having little or no food on the table and the real possibility of extinction. Even many politicians are now talking about “Existential Crisis” which implies extinction.

Biden’S Climate Plan

President Biden hasn’t released his entire plan but from what we now know it will be better than any plan he has supported in the past although it won’t be adequate to the challenge we face. His plan does include important but limited elements of climate justice for poor communities especially those of people of color which have borne the brunt of pollution and emissions in the past. From what we know it will spend heavily on electric vehicles, mass transit and energy efficient buildings all of which need to be done. His plan does include measures to encourage farmers to change